REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended herein to recite that the front faceplate is that which faces the observer as supported by the specification, for example, on page 1, lines24-25 and page 2, lines 13-14.

Claim 8 is added as a new claim. Support for new claim 8 is found for example, on page 7, lines 10-16.

No new matter is added.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Murata et al (US '099).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Murata et al does not disclose all elements of the presently claimed invention.

Applicants have already pointed out that the present invention provides a vacuum ultraviolet radiation excited light-emitting device comprising a discharge space filled with a rare gas between a front faceplate and a rear faceplate, and a fluorescent material layer provided on the front faceplate, wherein the fluorescent material layer has a thickness of not more than about 7 μm, which is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Murata et al.

Claim 1 is amended herein to indicate that the front faceplate is that which faces the observer to further clarify and distinguish the present invention over the art. Specifically, Murata et al does not disclose the element of the fluorescent material layer provided on the

front faceplate as defined in amended claim 1. Murata et al discloses that the phosphor layer 41 which emits visible light is formed on the inner wall of each discharge space 39, which is formed by ribs 37 on the surface of the light-emitting substrate 31, or back faceplate. See col. 7, lines 37-60 and Figures 1-2B. Murata et al clearly discloses that the light-emitting substrate 31 opposes the front substrate 11. See col. 5, lines 51-56. Thus, Murata et al does not anticipate the claimed invention for at least this reason. Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is distinguished over Murata et al for at least the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

II. Response to Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Ohsawa et al in view of Murata et al

Claims 1-2 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohsawa et al (US '826) in view of Murata et al (US '099).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. The Examiner argues that Ohsawa et al teaches a way of carrying out the present invention based on the following disclosure:

> There is no problem if the light output face (face panel) can be coated fully with the phosphor. However, the current face panel cannot be coated enough to use the ultraviolet ray effectively in connection with the light output needed to display".

However, Applicants submit that the sentence "if the light output face (face panel) can be coated fully with the phosphor" is considered to be subjunctive according to the whole description of this paragraph (column 9 lines 27-51) in Ohsawa et al. As it would be interpreted by those of ordinary skill in the art, it means that there is no problem in view of using the

ultraviolet ray effectively if the light output face could be coated fully with the phosphor; however, currently the face panel cannot be coated with the phosphor enough to use the ultraviolet ray effectively in connection with the light output needed to display.

Thus, Ohsawa et al acknowledges the front faceplate can not be fully coated with fluorescent material, and therefore Ohsawa et al does not teach a fluorescent material layer formed on the front faceplate.

Further, Ohsawa et al is silent as to a fluorescent material layer being formed on the front faceplate as well as a thickness of the fluorescent material layer.

Murata et al may disclose a PDP comprising a front faceplate, a rear faceplate and a fluorescent material proved on the rear faceplate, and the fluorescent material having a thickness of less than 7 μm. However, Murata et al does not teach a fluorescent material provided on the front faceplate.

Therefore, even if Ohsawa et al is combined with Murata et al, the claimed invention as recited in amended claim 1 would not have been achieved. Accordingly, the claimed invention as recited in amended claim 1 is not rendered obvious by the combination of the cited references. Claims 2 and 5-7 depend from claim 1 and are distinguished over the art for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

B. Anandan et al (US '324) in view of Murata et al

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Anandan et al (US '324) in view of Murata et al '099.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that Anandan et al and Murata et al do not teach or suggest the presently claimed invention, whether taken alone or in combination.

As admitted by the Examiner, Anandan et al is silent regarding the element of the thickness of the fluorescent material of less than 7 μm. See page 4 of the office Action dated December 29, 2004.

Murata et al does not teach a fluorescent material provided on the front faceplate for the reasons set forth above.

Accordingly, even if combined, the presently claimed invention would not have been achieved as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, the present invention is not rendered obvious by the combination of Anandan et al with Murata et al. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are distinguished over the art for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

III. New Claim 8

New claim 8 recites that the fluorescent material layer is represented by Y_2O_3:Eu, Y_2O_2S:Eu, (Y, Gd)BO_3:Eu, $BaAl_{12}O_{19}$:Mn, $BaMgAl_{10}O_{17}$:Mn, $BaMgAl_{14}O_{23}$:Mn, Zn_2SiO_4:Mn, $BaMgAl_{10}O_{17}$:Eu or $BaMgAl_{14}O_{23}$:Eu. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and is distinguished over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

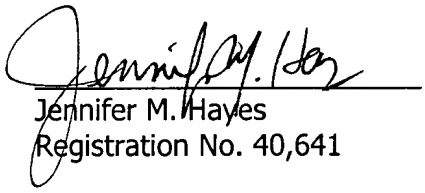
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer M. Hayes
Registration No. 40,641

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 20, 2005